

INTRODUCTION



TIJUANA, B.C. NEAR US-MEXICO BORDER.



BORDER FIELD STATE PARK, SAN YSIDRO, CA.

Introduction & Summary of Project Submittals

BACKGROUND

Since the 1940s, the US-Mexico border region has been experiencing significant economic expansion and high population growth rates. This growth was accelerated with the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994, and today, border communities face scarce natural resources, significant environmental degradation and a lack of basic environmental infrastructure.

To offset the environmental impact of NAFTA, the United States and Mexican federal governments created the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB) to develop, certify and fund environmental infrastructure projects along the US-Mexico border. Over the past 10 years, the BECC and the NADB have provided technical and construction assistance to border communities.

The California-Baja California border region, which includes Imperial and San Diego counties and the municipios of Tijuana, Playas de Rosarito, Tecate, Mexicali and Ensenada, accounts for approximately 46%¹ of the US-Mexico border population. To date, the California-Baja California border region has received approximately \$2.7 million in Technical Assistance and close to \$140 million in construction assistance² from the BECC and NADB.

In an effort to strategically position the California-Baja California border region for maximum funding from state, federal and binational funding institutions, both States joined forces to identify and seek funding for the development and implementation of much needed environmental infrastructure projects in the region.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

In April of 1995 and 1998, California and Baja California jointly published two environmental infrastructure needs assessment reports, which identified needs and potential projects for the region. This report is a continuation of past efforts to highlight potential environmental infrastructure projects within our region. The report identifies new environmental and public health needs and projects 100 km north and 300 km³ south of the border. The majority of the environmental infrastructure projects identified within the report fall within the BECC/NADB core and new sectors, which include **water supply, wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste⁴**, air quality improvement, industrial and hazardous waste, public transportation, clean and efficient energy, municipal planning and development, and water management. The report also provides an update of potential funding sources and technical assistance available from state and federal funding agencies and non-profit border organizations within the region.

As in past editions of this report, no attempt was made to prioritize or establish rating criteria. All projects submitted by April 2004 are included.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Over 200 letters and questionnaires were mailed to California and Baja California border and tribal communities including local, state and federal governments soliciting input on potential environmental infrastructure projects within the region. In addition, outreach efforts were initiated during the summer of 2003 to assist communities in the identification of potential projects and completion of questionnaires. As of April 2004, 51 project proposals were received. A total of 35 project proposals benefiting 25 border communities and one tribal nation in California are highlighted in the report. In addition, 16 projects were submitted benefiting four border cities in Baja California.

The total cost of projects in California is approximately US\$152.8 Million. The estimated cost of projects in Baja California is \$496 Million pesos (US\$49.6 Million). These estimates include costs for the studies needed to develop a particular project and construction. For several projects, the construction cost estimates were not available since this information cannot be determined until the appropriate feasibility studies are completed.

A summary of projects submitted by project type and location is shown in Figure 1: Border Environmental Infrastructure Projects Ca-Baja CA 2004. A list of the CA-Baja CA border communities, which can benefit from the proposed projects, is shown in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: List of California border communities that can benefit from proposed projects

Community	Population ⁵	Average Median Household Income ⁶
Brawley County Water District Colonia	2,465 ⁷	\$18,900 ⁸
City of Brawley	22,052	\$31,277
City of Calexico	27,109	\$28,929
City of Calipatria	7,289	\$30,962
Community of Campo	1642 ⁹	\$54,800 ¹⁰
Community of Descanso	880 ¹¹	\$55,000 ¹²
Community of Desert Shores	792	\$24,712
County of Imperial	142,361	\$31,870
City of Imperial	7,560	\$49,451
Community of Jacumba	500	\$14,000
Community of Jamul	5,920	\$87,309
Mesa Verde Colonia	994	\$20,625
Niland Colonia	1143	\$25,592
North Shore Colonia	3873	\$24, 625
Bombay Beach Colonia	366	\$17,708
Community of Hot Mineral Spa	658 ¹³	\$23,490 ¹⁴
Oasis Colonia	2006	\$27,055
Ocotillo Colonia	296	\$23,438
Pala Band of Mission Indians	1,573 ¹⁵	\$1,100 ¹⁶
Palo Verde Colonia	236	\$12,772
Poe Colonia	126 ¹⁷	\$25, 496 ¹⁸
Community of Salton City	978	\$21,563
Community of Salton Sea Beach	392	\$13,664
Tecate Colonia	150	NA
Winterhaven Colonia	529	\$11,563
City of Westmorland	2131	\$23,365

Table 2: List of Baja CA border communities that can benefit from proposed projects

Community	Population ²¹
Ensenada	370,730
Mexicali	764,602
Playas de Rosarito	63,420
Tijuana	1,210,820

As of 2000, 908,562 people were employed in the State of Baja California. Of this total, 48.7% earn between \$22,437 pesos (US \$2,244) and \$56,098 pesos (US \$5,098) annually.²²

¹ Percentage was calculated utilizing data obtained from the US Census Bureau, US Census 2000 and the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI), XII Censo General de Población y Vivienda 2000. The estimated US-Mexico border population is 11.8 Million (Border 2012: US-Mexico Environmental Program, EPA-160-R-03-001).

² Data obtained from the BECC December 2003 Project List Table: "Financing Status of BECC-Certified Projects".

³ Please note that Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant monies are only available for water and wastewater projects within 100km of the border.

⁴ BECC/NADB Core sectors are highlighted in bold.

^{5, 6} Data obtained from 2000 US Census unless otherwise indicated

^{7, 17, 18} Estimates from the Imperial County Community & Economic Development (ICCED). According to an informational query performed by the ICCED 100% of Poe Colonia's households have an annual income of 80% of the Imperial County average.

⁸ Survey performed by the City of Brawley

^{9, 10} US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Census Tract+211 and Block Group #2; median income shown is for a family of four.

^{11, 12} Estimate obtained from the Descanso Water District

^{13, 14} Imperial County Community and Economic Development Median Income for Census Tract 124, Block Group #1 is given.

^{15, 16} Pala EPA estimate

^{21, 22} Estimates obtained from the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI), XII Censo General de Población y Vivienda 2000.

FIGURE 1
BORDER ENVIROMNENTAL
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS MAP
CALIFORNIA - BAJA CALIFORNIA 2004





